



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

Fact Sheet

WTO and Agriculture **What's at Stake for Alaska?**

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Alaska produces fish and solid wood products that are exported worldwide. In 1998, the state's commercial fish landings totaled \$951 million, and wood product shipments were \$504 million in 1996. As for exports, these two industries are more reliant on overseas markets than the fish and wood industries of any other state. The value of fish and wood products leaving the port of Anchorage in 1998 was \$753 million and \$174 million, and Alaskan products are shipped from Seattle as well. These industries are important to Alaska's economy. They create jobs in mills and at ports, and also support jobs in related sectors, such as food processing, storage, and transportation.

World demand for fish and wood products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Alaskan industries are to compete successfully for export opportunities in the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.

Alaska Benefits From Trade Agreements

- # Under the Uruguay Round, major U.S. trading partners are reducing their tariffs 28 percent on average for wood products.
- # Under the U.S.-Japan Wood Products Agreement, Japan has liberalized its building codes to allow for wood in a greater variety of applications, helping U.S. softwood lumber exports reach record levels of \$650 million.

